

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8122

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1669

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR BM

SUBJECT: BURMESE PLANNING FOR HELICOPTER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

REF: RANGOON 1565

1. SUMMARY: IN SECOND MEETING WITH AIRA, BURMA AIR FORCE PROVIDED PAPERS OUTLINING PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS FOR TRAINING OF HELICOPTER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL. BAF ENVISAGES TRAINING 34 PERSONNEL (INCLUDING INSTRUCTOR PILOTS) IN US AND REQUESTS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON COURSES AVAILABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SECOND MEETING JUNE 14 WITH AIRA, BAF PROVIDED PAPERS GIVING ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON BAF PRELIMINARY THINKING ABOUT TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE PLANNING FOR HELICOPTER PACKAGE. COPIES WITH EMBASSY COMMENTS BEING POUCHED. MAJOR POINTS (IN ADDITION TO THOSE ALREADY TRANSMITTED REFTEL) ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) PLANNED UTILIZATION OF HELICOPTERS IS 20 HOURS PER AIRCRAFT PER MONTH (IN LINE WITH FRUGAL BURMESE OPERATING PRACTICE FOR EXISTING AIRCRAFT INVENTORY).

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(B) MAJOR COMPONENTS TO BE RETURNED TO US FOR OVERHAUL. TURNAROUND

TIME ESTIMATED AT SIX MONTHS' SHIPPING EACH WAY PLUS TIME AT OVER-HAUL DEPOT, WHICH LHS 24 MONTHS FOR HUSKIES. INITIAL SPARES SUPPORT IS THEREFORE BASED ON THREE YEARS' OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

(C) SERVICES OF TECHNICAL REP OR REPS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ASSIST BAF IN MAINTENANCE AND ON-JOB TRAINING DURING INITIAL PERIOD OF INTRODUCTION OF HELICOPTERS.

(D) BAF ENVISAGES TRAINING FOLLOWING PERSONNEL IN US: TWO INSTRUCTOR PILOTS, TEN ADDITIONAL PILOTS, TWO ENGINEERING OFFICERS, ONE ELECTRICAL OFFICER, AND 19 ENLISTED MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS. ALL PILOTS TO BE SENT ARE ALREADY QUALIFIED IN ROTARY-WING AIR-CRAFT. ALL MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL TO BE SENT ARE ALREADY EXPERIENCED IN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE. ALL TRAINEES WILL HAVE ADEQUATE WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH. IP'S WILL CONDUCT UPGRADING PROGRAM TO QUALIFY ADDITIONAL PILOTS IN BURMA ON THEIR RETURN.

3. BAF REQUESTS DETAILS ON DURATION OF PILOT AND MAINTENANCE TRAINING COURSES, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S SUGGESTIONS ON THIS POINT AFTER BAF PAPERS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED IN WASHINGTON. SINCE BREAKDOWN OF MAINTENANCE DUTIES OF BAF AND US MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE NOT IDENTICAL, SOME OF THE MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL MAY HAVE TO ATTEND COURSES IN MORE THAN ONE FIELD.

4. BAF ALSO INQUIRED WHAT EXPENSES OF TRAINING--E.G., TRANSPORTATION COST, SUBSISTENCE, ETC.--WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE DEFRAYED BY GUB. SUBJECT TO DEPT'S CONCURRENCE WE SHALL BRIEF BAF ON REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO AID PARTICIPANTS.

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